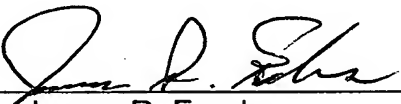


REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1-27. No claims have been amended, no claims have been cancelled, and no claims have been added herein.

The present Amendment is being filed with the Office for purposes of providing the Examiner with an opportunity to consider the Japanese reference (JP Publication No. 04-057977), which is included in the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") concurrently filed herewith. An English language translation of JP Publication No. 04-057977 is also included in the IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James R. Franks
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,552

Bayer MaterialScience LLC
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741
(412) 777-3808
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
(412) 777-3902

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